

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed April 26, 2007. A Petition for a three-month Extension of Time (with fee) is filed concurrently and a Request for a Continuing Application (RCE), with fee, is filed concurrently. Claims 1-6 and 8 through 30 are pending.

Based on the filing of the RCE, entry of the foregoing amendment is solicited. Support for the amendment may be found in the published PCT application at page 7, lines 26-28, as well as at page 3 of the published version of this application ¶[0037].

The rejections of the previously pending claims based on the Hasegawa document (GB 2 186 769 A) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in combination with Smallbone (US 4 251 316) (with or without additional reliance on WO – 00/72635) are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, the only independent claim, now includes a feature neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art, namely, " at least one bus bar is shared between different zones".

It appears to Applicants, based upon the Office Action interpretation of the Hasegawa document, that multiple zones (e.g., 32a, 32b, 32c, etc) are illustrated in Figures 14 and 15. No other Figures appear to illustrate multiple zones and, in fact, in all other Figures in which the numeral 32 appears, there is no alphabetical suffix. Further, the text of the Hasegawa document identifies the numeral 32 as the transparent conductive film (e.g., page 1, line 71). It is not until the description of Figures 14 and 15 (e.g., page 2, lines 87 et seq) that reference is made to the numeral 32 with any

suffix, and this is described as dividing the film into four equal areas. (page 2, line 94-98). In some Figures in the Hasegawa document, it appears that the electrical current flow path may be non-linear, and in some instances there are multiple bus bars (e.g., Figure 12A and 12B) but in no instance are there at least two bus bars shared between different zones.

The Smallbone document does not provide the disclosure which is missing from the Hasegawa document in this regard – in fact, in the Smallbone document there is only one zone and only one pair of bus bars. Smallbone thus teaches away from multiple zones and therefore teaches away from at least two bus bars shared between different zones.

The WO 00/72635 document was not relied upon as disclosing multiple bus bars and/or multiple zones, therefore, no further comment is apparently needed relative to this document.

Applicants' attorney wishes to thank Examiner Patel for the courtesies extended during a telephone interview when the feature of "at least one bus bar is shared between different zones" was discussed and the Examiner indicated that an RCE would need to be filed.

Conclusion

The rejections of record are respectfully traversed. Each dependent claim is submitted to be allowable based on the feature in that claim as well as being dependent, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 which is submitted to be allowable for the reasons stated above.

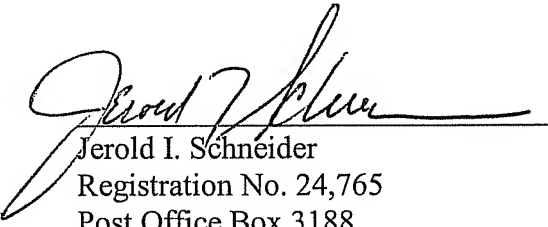
Based on the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is requested and encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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